

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1629

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC PFOR LY

SUBJECT: U.S. TRAINING OF LIBYAN LAWYERS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

REF: TRIPOLI 1117

DURING INTERVIEWS OCTOBER 10 AND 15 WITH LAWYERS
NAMED IN REFTEL, TWO POINTS DEVELOPED:

1. LIBYAN MINJUSTICE BELIEVES THAT MINISTRY WOEFULLY UNDERSTAFFED INTERNATIONAL LAW EXPERTS, AT LEAST IN LAWYERS OF POST-COUP GENERATION. MINISTRY FEELS THAT SUCH LACK OF EXPERTISE COULD RESULT IN LIBYA'S FALLING BEHIND IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE AND MINISTRY WISHES AVOID THIS;
2. ALTHOUGH LIBYA SEEMS TO GIVE LOW PRIORITY TO SETTLING CERTAIN NATIONALIZATION CLAIMS, ESPECIALLY IN PETROLEUM SECTOR SINCE BP NATIONALIZATION DECEMBER 1971, MINJUSTICE REALIZES THAT BP AND OTHER CLAIMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PUT FORWARD AND THAT LIBYA MAY WELL BE PRESSURED INTO POSITION OF SETTLING THESE CLAIMS IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA IN FUTURE YEARS. THUS, MOST IMPORTANT FROM LIBYAN VIEW TO ACHIEVE COMPETENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW.
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